

MEMORANDUM FOR THE RECORD

To: Distribution List

Subj: "Update on Soviet Naval Developments" Seminar Trip Report

Encl: (1) Roster of Attendees
(2) Conference Agenda

1. From 21-23 June I participated in the fourth annual conference on the Soviet Navy sponsored by Dalhousie University and chaired by Michael McGwire. The first three conferences, held between 1972 and 1974, had focussed on developments, policy, and influence, respectively. This the fourth conference primarily focussed on updating information and coming to some determination of how the Soviet Navy views its wartime missions. Peacetime tasks will be the subject of a CNA conference in the fall.

2. The conference was attended by about 65 "leading experts" on the Soviet Navy. Attendees were roughly divided by background into four categories: academics and civilian analysts; U.S. intelligence community; U.S. Navy; and "Beltway Bandits." The intention was not to come to a consolidated position, but to exchange information and thereby weave a broader context for understanding future developments. It is expected that a summary of the proceedings will be published soon under the auspices of the Carnegie Foundation (which co-sponsored the meeting).

3. The conference was divided into three sections. The first day was devoted to a detailed discussion of the works of Gorshkov and, later, other writings on Soviet military and naval subjects. The second day and the morning of the third day was dedicated to updating various categories of information about the Soviet Navy. These categories ranged through current trends (vehicles, operations and exercises, and evolving operational concepts); the formulation of naval policy (organization, economics, institutional inputs, and threat perceptions); and an examination of potential effectiveness (training, availability, capability). The remainder of the conference was devoted to analyzing the mission priorities of the Soviet Navy, weaving together a synthesis from the various strands which had been identified up to that point.

4. Although it is unfair to proclaim that one could do justice to the proceedings by offering a "consensus opinion", perhaps the following listing of Soviet naval missions will give some feeling of the general pattern of thinking of the group.

22 AUG 1977

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MEMORANDUM FOR:

FROM:

Director of Central Intelligence

Would you see if Dr. Schlesinger's office can give us statistics on how our oil consumption is divided into principal categories, e.g., automobiles, homes, factories, etc.

STANSFIELD TURNER